

Message Text

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TAGS: BEXP, ECEM,/69

SUBJECT:SLOVENIAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PLANS

REF: ZAGREB 0741

1. CONGEN OFFICER MET RECENTLY WITH DR. LEV PREMUR, DIRECTOR, AND DR. MIHA KREMSER, COUNSELOR FOR DEVELOPMENT, OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SLOVENE CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, TO REVIEW STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND PROPOSED VISIT BY INDUSTRY EXPERTS TO U.S.

2. AT THE PRESENT TIME, BASED ON CONTACTS MADE AT THE MAY MEETING IN DUBROVNIK OF THE U.S.-YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC COUNCIL, THE ASSOCIATION ON BEHALF OF ITS MEMBERS IS EXPLORING WITH ONE LARGE AMERICAN MANUFACTURER THE ENTIRE PLAN. USING AAS AN EXAMPLE THE PROJECTED DOW-INA JOINT VENTURE IN CROATIA, THE SLOVENES WOULD PREFER TO DEAL WITH A SINGLE COMPANY ON A BROAD RANGE OF PRODUCTS. AT THIS TIME PREMUR AND KREMSER WERE NOT ABLE TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME OF THESE EXPLORATORY TALKS.

3. OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS LISTED IN ZAGREB A-16, JANUARY 30, 1975, THOSE MOST ADVANCED AND LIKELY TO RECEIVE PRIORITY ARE: MENTHANOL, POLYAMID FIBERS, AND PHARMACEUTICALS/INSECTICIDES. FOR THESE PROJECTS FEASIBILITY STUDIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED AND IMPLEMENTATION IS DEPENDENT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS PRESENTLY UNDERWAY.

4. AS FAR AS CONCERNS FINANCING, THE SLOVENES ARE LOOKING FOR SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. UNDER YUGOSLAV LAW

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FOREIGN OWNERSHIP IS LIMITED TO 49 PERCENT, AND DR. PREMUR

IMPLIED THAT THE YUGOSLAV PARTNERS WOULD EXPECT TO SUPPLY THE
OTHER 51 PERCENT.

5. CONSULATE GENERAL WILL STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE ASSOCIATION
AND REPORT PROMPTLY IF FIELD IS OPENED TO OTHER FIRMS FOLLOWING
INITIAL ROUND OF EXPLORATORY TALKS. THE PROPOSED VISIT BY
INDUSTRY EXPERTS TO THE U.S. PRESUMABLY MUST BE DEFERRED PENDING
COMPLETION OF THE TALKS WHICH ARE TAKING PLACE IN YUGOSLAVIA.
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